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1. There are two corrective labor camps near Astrakhan (Ispravitel'no-Trudovaya Koloniya-ITK). One is located in Astrakhan-Tsarev, between the Astrakhan Maritime School and a brewery. The other is near Bashmakovka (46-15N, 47-58E), about 10 km south-southwest of Astrakhan, on the east bank of the Kizan River.

common knowledge in Astrakhan. The address of the headquarters was Astrakhan Lag - Chief Directorate of Astrakhan Oblast Corrective Labor Camps, 23 Sverdlova Ulitsa, Astrakhan. Everybody in Astrakhan knew this address. There were similar directorates in all oblasts where there were forced labor camps.

2. Both camps were of the so-called stationary type, which means that they were permanent installations. The Astrakhan-Tsarev camp was established either before or during the war.

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The Astrakhan-Tsarev Camp

3. [ ] following details about this camp:

- (a) It covered an area of about 800 x 400 m and was surrounded by a barbed wire fence. In addition there were several rows of barbed wire entanglement, making a belt around the camp, about three m wide and two m high. There were several watchtowers with guards, and at night the fence was covered by searchlights from the towers. The regular camp buildings were wooden, one-story barracks. [ ]

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[ ] there were some two to three thousand inmates in the camp.

- (b) On numerous occasions [ ] large groups leaving the camp for work under armed escort. The escort was made up of MVD troops, armed with submachine guns.
- (c) Since the middle of 1948, the inmates of this camp had been working chiefly on the construction of a bridge across the Volga River from Eling to Trusovo. This was a very extensive project where a total of about eight thousand workers were employed, some two thousand of them coming from the Tsarev camp. [ ]

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- (d) Some of the camp's inmates also worked in various other places such as road construction in the vicinity of Astrakhan; in the Volga fisheries; in the Ice-Salt Combinat ((Ldo Sol Kombinat), where they loaded and unloaded barges with ice and salt for the fish canneries; and finally in the yards of the Volga-Caspian Timber Company, which handled timber shipping down the Volga. [ ]

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The Bashmakovka Camp

4. [ ] following information about this camp:

- (a) It covered an area of about 600 x 250 m and was surrounded by a wooden fence, about 2.5 to three m high, crowned by barbed wire. On the outer side of the wooden fence there was another fence, of barbed wire. The wooden fence prevented the outsider from looking in [ ]

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The camp was heavily guarded by MVD troops. Posters marked, "No trespassing, guards are instructed to fire without warning", kept passers-by at a respectful distance. In the camp there were watchtowers with guards and searchlights.

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25X1 (b) [redacted] inmates from this camp working at a sawmill of the Volga-Caspian Timber Company, which was located close to the camp. Others were working on the bridge project described above [see paragraph 3c].

25X1 25X1 (c) [redacted] there were persistent rumors in Astrakhan that they were mostly repatriated Soviet citizens, former prisoners-of-war and slave laborers in Germany.

5. A large proportion of the inmates of both camps were women, who performed the same kind of work as the men although they were grouped into separate brigades. The guards in charge of work details were men in all cases.

6. In general, work in the camps is hard, food insufficient, and quarters inadequate. Inmates are worked to death with no consideration whatsoever for human life. Very often guard details are made up of individuals belonging to national minority groups. They are uneducated and brutish people who strictly follow orders and have no conception of either good or bad, right or wrong.

7. [redacted]

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